

MINUTES “NORG #48” INAUGURAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2019

PALM SPRINGS FIRE TRAINING FACILITY, 3000 E. ALEJO ROAD, PALM SPRINGS, CA

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Kathy Cohn, Chair, ONE-PS. Ms. Cohn introduced the other ONE-PS officials who were present: Jim Knauss, Vice-Chair; Eric Chiel, Communications Officer; Don Barrett, Director and Chair of the Governance Committee; Chris Ruetz, Director and Co-Chair of the Neighborhood Formation and Support Committee. Ms. Cohn also introduced Denise Goolsby, Manager, Office of Neighborhoods, City of Palm Springs. Individuals were reminded that for voting purposes, each residential or business address is entitled to one vote, unless there were two individuals residing at the same address, where one is the property owner and the other resident is a renter. 58 residences (i.e., “Members”) were represented at the meeting by one or more individuals (i.e., “Eligible Members”), as reflected by the signature(s) associated with a single address on the sign-in sheets. Each household was given a green Neighborhood Organization (NOrg) #48 Board Ballot (Attachment A) with the names of ten Candidates who had previously indicated interest in being a Director on the Board for the new NOrg. Each household was also provided one blank index card for use during a possible vote on a name for the new NOrg. Members were also encouraged to take a copy of the 3rd edition of *The ONE-PS Guide to Palm Springs Neighborhoods*.

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Cohn described the ONE-PS organization. She talked about the history behind the City’s “Fill-In-The-Map Initiative”. She furthered explained that the initiative, a result of the City of Palm Springs’ establishment of new voting districts, was designed to expand and create new NOrgs, thus including all residents and businesses within the ONE-PS membership. She also outlined the benefits of membership in the ONE-PS organization (refer to ONE-PS Document D6 Rev 09.24.18). Ms. Cohn also spoke about some of the upcoming issues that ONE-PS will be advising the City on, to include revisions to the City’s noise ordinance and the recommendations of a Cannabis Work Group.

Ms. Cohn introduced Officers Shelby Jiles and Jacob Valdivia (Telephone Contact: (760) 323-8116 and e-mail address of Jacob.valdivia@palmspringsca.gov) who would be the organization’s Neighborhood Policing Officers (NPOs). NPOs are members of the Palm Springs Police Department who are advisory liaisons to specific neighborhoods. Both officers spoke about the Neighborhood Policing Program and the benefits of having NPOs assigned to a neighborhood organization. They noted that NPOs are available to meet with the residents at their regularly scheduled NOrg meetings to provide crime statistics and crime prevention advice.

Mr. Ruetz then reviewed the history of the neighborhood including the creation of the boundaries of the proposed neighborhood organization #48, and some of the challenges and lessons learned from other NORGs during their initial formation.

VOTE TO REQUEST RECOGNITION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION BY ONE-PS: Mr. Ruetz called for a motion from the floor for a vote to request recognition of the proposed neighborhood organization by the ONE-PS organization. Mr. Ruetz explained that should this initial vote fail due to a lack of a majority of Members present and voting in the affirmative, the meeting would be adjourned as no further action would be in order. Before a motion was seconded, a Member asked if there was any provision or opportunity for residents of the Canyon Estates Homeowners’ Association to be its own Neighborhood Organization apart from the other

residences within the current neighborhood boundaries of the proposed NOrg #48. Ms. Cohn explained that such a separation would result in a small number of residences, and the City Manager (who is responsible for approving neighborhood boundaries) would not likely entertain this action. Ms. Cohn explained that any Member who resided in the Canyon Estates HOA who did not want to be a part of the proposed NOrg #48 could vote in the negative on the pending question. Multiple attendees raised concerns about the communication process leading to the inaugural General Membership Meeting. ONE-PS officials acknowledged that the initial formation committee members, back in May, were advised poorly and that the process could be improved going forward. Despite lingering concerns, the ONE-PS officials stressed the need to move ahead with a vote. A second was heard by the Chair, and **by a vote of 31 in the affirmative, and 19 in the negative, the motion to proceed with a request for recognition of the neighborhood organization #48 by ONE-PS passed.** All voting was by a show of hands and the counting of votes was handled by ONE-PS volunteers. At the invitation of a NOrg #48 Member, Mr. Chiel offered comments that identified benefits of ONE-PS membership in addition to those stated earlier and specific to concerns raised thus far at this meeting. He also noted some process and structural alternatives within ONE-PS neighborhoods that could be used as models to address other concerns raised here.

APPROVAL OF DRAFT BYLAWS: Mr. Ruetz called for a motion from the floor for a vote to approve the draft Bylaws as posted on the temporary website, www.one-ps.org/norg-temp. Mr. Ruetz explained that these Bylaws could be changed by a majority vote of the Directors and subsequent approval by a majority vote of Members at a future Annual or Special General Membership Meeting. One Member did raise an objection that there was an absence of a quorum. The objection was based on Article X, Section V, of the draft Bylaws, which states “One-fifth of the Members shall constitute a quorum at the Annual or any Special General Membership Meeting.” However, Mr. Barrett explained that “Members” are defined differently than “residents”, and with 58 Members still present, a request for a motion to approve the initial draft Bylaws was in order. A motion to approve the draft Bylaws, as posted, was made by Mr. Goldberg, and seconded by Mr. Mitchell. **By a vote of 32 in favor, 7 opposed, the draft Bylaws were approved.**

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mr. Ruetz explained that the next order of business would be for Members to elect its Board of Directors. The printed green NORG #48 Board Ballot (Attachment A) was reviewed, and Mr. Ruetz explained that these individuals had previously expressed interest in being one of up to nine Directors, as described in the newly adopted Bylaws. Mr. Ruetz also explained that Members could self-nominate at this time. One Member asked why the name of Joy Silver, who had previously requested to be included on the ballot, did not appear on the ballot. Ms. Cohn responded that Ms. Silver had contacted Ms. Goolsby in the past few days and specifically requested that she be removed from the ballot. One Member, Ms. Kimberly Zakowski, nominated herself. Mr. Ruetz then requested that each Candidate, including Ms. Zakowski, address the Members and briefly introduce themselves, and provide some brief remarks as to why he/she wished to be on the Board of Directors. When all Candidates were finished, but prior to a motion to proceed with the voting, Mr. Chiel commented that there is precedent during organizational meetings such as this one for revising Bylaws by increasing, within reason, the number of available Board seats to accommodate all Members expressing interest in serving. It was noted however, that the maximum number in Article VIII, Section 2, of the just-adopted Bylaws, limited the number of Directors to nine.

After some further discussion, Mr. Ken Patrick, made a motion to proceed with the vote on Directors, which was seconded by Ms. Catherine Congleton. Mr. Goldberg offered a friendly amendment to Mr. Patrick’s motion. Both Mr. Patrick and Ms. Congleton accepted Mr. Goldberg’s friendly amendment. Mr. Goldberg’s suggestion

was to amend Article VIII, Section 2, and insert, after "The Board shall consist of nine members ("Directors"), a sentence that read, "Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the initial board shall consist of 11 members." Mr. Goldberg then explained that at the conclusion of the first term of those eleven members, the Board of Directors would drop back to a more manageable size of nine members. This amendment, being the pending motion now on the floor, was approved by acclamation. A motion was made by Ms. Zakowski, and seconded by Mr. Lazzari, to approve the whole slate, including the self-nominated write-in candidate, without requiring the use of the printed ballots. **A show of hands indicated a strong majority, almost unanimous, approval of the motion to approve all 11 nominees as Directors of the new Board.** Those members are Wendy Anderson, Catherine Congleton, Howard Goldberg, Janice Kaminsky, Matthew Lancellotti, Michael Lazzari, Kenneth Patrick, James Sizemore, Greg Tormo, David Vignolo, and Kim Zakowski.

DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF A NAME FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Mr. Ruetz then called for a motion from the floor for a vote to select a name for the new NOrg. Ms. Cohn reiterated that based on the results of an on-line survey on neighborhood name preferences, completed by thirty residents, five names were being presented to the Members for further consideration: Canyon Palms, Indian Canyons East, Sierra Vista, Smoketree Canyons, and Toledo Canyons. After several Members objected that this list did not include names which they had submitted via the on-line survey or through other means, Ms. Cohn noted that over twenty names had been received, but that these five names had been mentioned more than once, and by multiple respondents. Mr. Ruetz stated Members could put any name on the blank green index cards each household had been provided, but it would take time to tabulate the votes until one name emerged with a clear majority. After the initial vote, and with no clear consensus having emerged, a run-off vote was conducted among the top four names: Canyon Palms, Indian Canyons East, Sierra Vista, and Smoketree Canyons. After the second vote, no name had a majority, but two – Canyon Palms and Smoketree Canyons – far outpaced the other names. A run-off vote between Canyon Palms and Smoketree Canyons was conducted. **The vote was 24 for Canyon Palms and 19 votes for Smoketree Canyons.**

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to immediately adjourn the meeting and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Vignolo, Secretary and Official Representative to ONE-PS

Board of Directors of the Canyon Palms Neighborhood Organization